



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Urban Rivers Restoration Pilot Fact Sheet Tres Rios, Arizona

Background - In recent history, the Tres Rios area has felt the impact of an expanding human population. The project area has lost wetlands and a portion has been used for a landfill. The population of the Phoenix metropolitan area is approximately 3.1 million people and is expected to grow to 3.7 million by 2010.

Current Activities - Currently, the City of Phoenix and the US Army Corps of Engineers are cost sharing partners on the Tres Rios multi-purpose project, which involves a seven mile stretch of the Salt and Gila Rivers west of the Phoenix metropolitan area. The goal of the project includes restoration of native riparian habitat, water quality improvement, flood damage reduction, recreation, cultural resources mitigation and environmental education. As an urban river pilot with expanded partnerships, the Tres Rios partners also hope to include the characterization, possible mitigation and remediation of a closed landfill, known as the 123rd Avenue Landfill, located within the Gila Riverbed and the Tres Rios Project boundaries.

Collaboration among Federal, State and Local agencies and community organizations promises to achieve maximum benefits to this urban ecosystem. Its anticipated that cooperation will result in a comprehensive restoration of this urban river including ecosystem restoration, improved water quality, flood damage reduction as well as recreation and education opportunities. The project also stands to benefit tribal lands in the area.

Authority and Funding - As authorized in WRDA 2000, the Tres Rios Ecosystem Restoration project will restore a seven-mile long reach of the Salt and Gila Rivers. The

restoration measures will improve and increase fish and wildlife habitat and diversity for threatened and endangered species, as well as provide flood damage reduction and recreation with potential incidental benefits associated with water quality and supply. This Corps project is not specifically authorized to include water quality improvements as a primary output. Therefore, water quality problems associated with the 123rd Avenue Landfill cannot not be addressed without the collaboration of others who are authorized to deal with water quality challenges.

The Tres Rios project was authorized in WRDA 2000, Section 101(b)(4) of PL 106-541. The project is currently in preconstruction engineering and design. The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for FY03 provided \$1M in construction funding. In addition, the US EPA has identified funding that will enable the assessment of the 123rd Avenue Landfill.

Points of Contact:

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